

Response Rates for the 2016 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

The preliminary estimates for the Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll were released on September 28, 2017. All unit response rates at the state and U.S. total levels were above the U.S. Census Bureau's standards threshold of 60 percent. The Census Bureau also has a standard on the Total Quantity response, which is a measure of the portion of the estimate of interest that is accounted for by responses. The rate must be above 70 percent. For example, the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR) for the number of total employees in a state must be above 70 percent; i.e., at least 70 percent of the estimated total number of the total employees must come from responses. The data for 2016 come from a sample of governments, therefore, the numerator and denominator of the TQRR must be weighted.

The TQRRs for 2016 were usually above the 70 percent standard with some notable exceptions. There are 12 states (Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin) that are noncompliant for at least one local government TQRR. There are nine states (Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, and Tennessee) that have state government TQRRs that do not meet Census Bureau TQRR standards. See the accompanying Table A.

For future survey years, more extensive non-response follow-up efforts will be taken prior to release of the survey's estimates, to try to obtain data from the nonrespondents identified as critical. Further research will be conducted on state and local governments to identify governmental units contributing to the low TQRRs in those noncompliant states.

Table A: Noncompliant Total Quantity Response Rates for the 2016 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

State	Total Employment Quantity Response Rate	Total Payroll Quantity Response Rate
State and Local Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Louisiana	69.1%	71.3%
Minnesota	62.1%	62.1%
Mississippi	69.1%	69.1%
Nebraska	65.7%	67.2%
New Jersey	69.2%	69.4%
Tennessee	67.6%	69.8%
Vermont	65.3%	66.7%
Washington	63.5%	66.9%
Local Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Colorado	61.9%	66.3%
Connecticut	63.3%	65.9%
Louisiana	61.7%	63.0%
Massachusetts	60.9%	63.8%
Michigan	65.6%	64.0%
Minnesota	64.6%	62.6%
Mississippi	57.9%	56.5%
New Hampshire	64.7%	65.2%
Rhode Island	68.9%	72.3%
Vermont	60.4%	62.4%
Washington	43.4%	51.2%
Wisconsin	70.7%	69.5%
State Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Maine	68.8%	61.7%
Maryland	68.2%	67.0%
Minnesota	55.9%	61.2%
Nebraska	30.0%	32.2%
Nevada	52.7%	61.8%
New Jersey	66.4%	64.8%
North Carolina	68.4%	64.7%
Oregon	63.1%	73.2%
Tennessee	44.2%	41.7%